



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



HONOR GUARDS RECOGNIZED

Eight South Dakota Military Funeral Honor Guards were presented with the South Dakota Hall of Fame "Acts of Excellence" award last Friday. The SDHF award was presented in recognition of the military funeral honors conducted for veterans at the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery. Presenting the awards on behalf of the SDHF were: Miles Beauchamp, Greta Chapman, and Stacy Wrightsman.

Honor guards recognized were:



American Legion Post 15 – Sioux Falls
 American Legion Post 23 – Garretson
 American Legion Post 65 – Dell Rapids
 American Legion Post 118 – Hartford
 American Legion Post 45 – Harrisburg
 American Legion Post 13 – Wakonda
 VFW Post 628 – Sioux Falls
 Marine Corps League – Sioux Falls

Providing military funeral honors is our nation's way of showing gratitude and paying final tribute to a veteran's honorable military service.

Our sincerest thank you to the SD Hall of Fame for recognizing this group of distinguished men and women and to the honor guards that continue to support our mission at the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery.



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*Presented by the South Dakota Hall of Fame to:
 American Legion Post 65 – Dell Rapids*

Honoring veterans as they are laid to rest is a special and time-honored tradition carried out by various Sioux Falls area honor guards, and most recently at the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery.

The rendering of military funeral honors is a way to show the nation's deep gratitude to those who have faithfully defended our country in time of war and peace.

The ceremonial paying of respect is the final demonstration that a grateful nation can provide to a veteran's family.

Focusing on the dignity and valor of a death, the honor guard performs a ceremony that includes rifle volley, playing of Taps, and the folding and presentation of the flag to the family.

The services you provide help families remember what their loved one did, why they did it, and appreciate what it means to us as a nation.

Honoring Those Who Have Served Our Country

Sponsored by
SANFORD
 HEALTH

JOHNSON NAMED SUPERINTENDENT FOR STATE VETERANS HOME

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Greg Whitlock announced that Chuck Johnson will be serving as the new superintendent of the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home in Hot Springs.

“Chuck has a strong healthcare administration background and will help us in succeeding in our mission and vision at the Home,” said Secretary Whitlock. “He has served as the administrator for the Bethel Lutheran Home in Madison and the Care and Rehab Center in Arlington. In addition to these attributes, Chuck has also served as director of numerous rehab facilities in South Dakota and Iowa.”

Johnson is licensed as a nursing home administrator and a physical therapist assistant. He obtained degrees in health management and business management from the University of Minnesota and a physical therapy assistant degree from Indian Hills Community College in Iowa.

“Taking care of veterans is not new for Chuck,” said Whitlock. “He has over 22 years of military service between serving in the U.S. Army and the Iowa National Guard. He served one combat tour in Afghanistan. During his National Guard service, he supervised ground ambulance platoons, trained medics, and conducted live ground to air evac operations.”

“We are beyond excited to have Chuck join the Department of Veterans Affairs,” said Whitlock. “His years of excellence and hard work are a great inspiration to us. His passion for his job and compassion for his residents is inspiring.”



EAFB CHANGES SCHEDULING PROCEDURES FOR DEERS/ID CARDS

ID Card Office Online

Welcome to the RAPIDS ID Card Office Online. Select an option below to update your CAC, manage sponsor or family member ID card information, or find a RAPIDS ID Card Office.

ID Card Office Locator & Appointments

Find a RAPIDS ID Card Office
Make an Appointment

CONTINUE

Common Access Card

Update Email Address
Activate PIV Authentication Certificate
Add Joint Data Model Applet
Add Personnel Category Code

CONTINUE

Family ID Cards

View Sponsor/Family ID Card
Nominate Family Member
Renew Family Member ID Card
Print Family List

CONTINUE

My Profile

Update Contact Information
Update GAL Information
Opt-In TSA PreCheck
(DoD Civilians Only)

CONTINUE

SDDVA has been notified by Ellsworth Air Force Base that they have changed the scheduling procedures for DEERS/ID cards.

Effective May 1, 2022, any DEERS/ID card appointments at EAFB must be scheduled using the on-line scheduling system. Please go to <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/#/> to schedule appointments.

If you have any questions please call 385-2427.

MJFSVH HOSTS ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT



The team at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home hosted the annual Hot Springs Easter Egg Hunt.

Even though Mother Nature added a coat of snow for the holiday, it didn't slow down the kids!!!!!!



CHANGES BEING MADE TO SDDVA FUNERAL HONORS PROGRAM

More than 120 veterans service organizations in the state that have participated in the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Military Funeral Honors program are receiving letters this week with information on changes that are coming to the program.

Since the fall of 2015, SDDVA has processed more than \$285,000 in payments to veterans service organizations honor guards for conducting funeral honors for veterans who have defended our nation. When the program was initially approved seven years ago, the stipend was set at \$50. The 2022 South Dakota Legislature approved an increase in the funds appropriated for this program and as a result, the payment will go to \$100 per service. After July 1, forms submitted for funeral honors conducted after that date will receive that new stipend amount.

In addition, SDDVA has modified the Military Funeral Honors form. One of the changes made includes removing the need for the signature of the funeral home or cemetery representative that requested the honor guard's services.

In order to qualify for SDDVA's Military Funeral Honors program, Honor Guards that apply for the payment may not have already received a payment for conducting funeral honors from any other source (family/funeral home, etc.) and must follow funeral honors policies and procedures in place for their organization.

Find a copy of the new Funeral Honors form on the State Burial Benefits page of the SDDVA website at <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/benefits/State/Burial%20Benefits.aspx>



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS STIPEND REQUEST

DECEASED VETERAN'S INFORMATION

Name: (Last, First, Middle)		Social Security Number:
Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY):	Date of Death (MM/DD/YYYY):	Date Honors Performed (MM/DD/YYYY):
Location of Honors: (List Name of Church, Cemetery, etc.)		Address for Location of Honors: (Street, City, State)

SERVICE ORGANIZATION PERFORMING HONORS

Post Name and Number:		
Mailing Address: (Street or PO Box)		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Telephone Number: (for post contact listed below)		Federal Tax ID #:
Please Check: (Both items below must apply in order for payment to be approved)		
<input type="checkbox"/> I certify that our Veterans Service Organization has not received funds specifically for this honors service from any other source.		
<input type="checkbox"/> I certify that funeral honors were conducted in accordance with our Veterans Service Organization's policies and procedures.		
Point of Contact: (Printed name)		
Signature of Post Honor Guard Commander:		Date: (CANNOT be dated before the date funeral honors performed)

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR INDIVIDUAL/ENTITY THAT REQUESTED HONORS

Individual/Funeral Home/Cemetery:		
Address: (Street or PO Box)		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Telephone Number:	Point of Contact for Funeral Home/Cemetery: (Printed Name)	

Note: **All sections must be completed for payment
 **Payments will be processed at the end of each quarter (in October, January, April and July).
 Forms must be received in our office by the 15th of those months.

Return form to: South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

425 E. Capitol Avenue
 Pierre, SD 57501-3100
 PH: 605-773-7251

SDDVA Form 3 Revised 4/7/2022

CHANGES TO VA AUTOMOTIVE ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT PROGRAM

The Sioux Falls VA Health Care System has notified SDDVA that there has been a significant change nationally to the VA Automotive Adaptive Equipment Program.

The VA form 4502 will no longer be sufficient justification for Automotive Adaptive Equipment approval.

Each time a veteran is requesting a new vehicle be added to their record for standard equipment, a modification to a vehicle be done, or a repair to a supported vehicle be completed, a VA Form 10-1394 – **Part II will need to be completed by VBA prior to any work by a dealer!**

A member of the VBA team will need to complete Boxes 15, 16, and 17. In box 15 check “Other” and at Specify insert “See attached Rating Code Sheet.” The most recent Rating Code Sheet will indicate whether the veteran is still eligible to receive the Automobile Allowance & AAE benefits.

VHA is responsible for completing Part III.

If, Part II cannot be verified by VBA or the veteran is “ineligible”, PSAS should not complete Part III of the Form 10-1394. The AAE modifier/dealer should not begin

adaptations, repairs, or modifications to a vehicle without Parts I, II, or III being completed on the 10-1394.

The VA cannot be held responsible for payment if a vehicle is released without the completed 10-1394. Veterans should start the process of getting an approved 10-1394 by contacting the prosthetics department. The prosthetics department will fill out Part 1 of the 10-1394 and send to the VBA for verification. After this is completed, Prosthetics will contact veterans by phone and mail with their eligibility status.

This change is effective immediately. If there are any questions please contact:

Brian Kaiser, Chief, Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Services 605-336-3230 X6393

Brian Schwartz, Assistant Chief, Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Services 605-336-3230 X6905.



SDNG GRADUATES EIGHT NEW WARRANT OFFICERS

Eight South Dakota Army National Guard soldiers graduated from Warrant Officer Candidate School during a ceremony at Fort McClellan, Alabama, April 16.

Warrant officers make up the technical foundation of the U.S. Army, specializing in a technical area such as human resources, information systems, aviation, maintenance and others throughout their careers.

WOCS is a three-phase program with online courses and training and includes five months of drill weekends at Fort Meade and a final two-week phase in Alabama.

Candidates are tested throughout WOCS both academically and physically in areas ranging from leadership to tactics.

"I'm extremely proud of this year's WOCS class. They worked very hard during Phase I in South Dakota to meet all required training objectives plus prepare for the culminating training held during Phase II at Fort McClellan," said Command Chief Warrant Officer 5 Kenneth Schoenfelder, SDARNG state command chief warrant officer. "Warrant Officer Candidate School is rigorous and requires the candidates to be mentally and physically fit."

While some of the candidates accept their appointment as warrant officers during the graduation ceremony, others choose to defer their appointment until an available assignment at a later date.

The Warrant Officer Candidate School graduates include:

- * Warrant Officer 1 Bryan Becker, (Field Artillery Technician) HHC, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Sioux Falls,
- * Warrant Officer 1 Shawn Hulbert, (Automotive Maintenance Warrant Officer) Forward Support Company, 153rd Engineer Battalion, Huron,
- * Warrant Officer 1 Jason Bell, (Construction Engineering Technician) Headquarters Company, 153rd Engineer Battalion, Huron,
- * Warrant Officer 1 Kimberly Meyer, (Band Master) 147th Army Band, Mitchell,
- * Warrant Officer 1 Tyler Pepper, (Electronic Systems Maintenance Warrant Officer) 665th Support Maintenance Company, Mitchell,
- * Sgt. 1st Class Kayla Johnston (Human Resources Technician) Joint Force Headquarters, Rapid City,
- * Staff Sgt. Kyle Buckley (Human Resources Technician) 109th Regional Support Group, Rapid City,
- * Staff Sgt. Timothy Glidden (Property Accounting Technician) 842nd Engineer Company, Spearfish.

Johnston and Glidden were also named to the commandant's list - the top 20 percent of the class for academic average.



NATIONAL VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival is back in person for the first time since 2019 and will be held April 20-25 in St. Petersburg, Florida.

This year's 41st annual event will recognize the progress and recovery veterans have achieved through therapy while raising the visibility of the creative triumphs of our nation's veterans.

Nearly 100 veterans will be honored for their artistic abilities. Veterans whose art, creative writing, dance, drama, and music entries received the highest rankings were invited to the festival.

Creative arts and music therapists at United States Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities nationwide use the arts as one form of rehabilitative treatment to help veterans recover from and cope with physical and emotional disabilities. The festival is the culmination of a year-long fine arts competition in which a panel of judges reviewed more than 3,600 submissions from veterans receiving care at 118 VA facilities.

The cultural week in St. Petersburg will offer workshops, artist interactions and a chance to explore the arts on the waterfront. It culminates with a gala style finale at Mahaffey Theater featuring music, drama and dance winners showcasing their talents at

2 p.m., ET, Sunday, April 24. Michael Peterson, multi-Grammy and Country Music Award nominee, will emcee the show.

One of the VA's seven national rehabilitation events, the festival is presented each year with the American Legion Auxiliary and is made possible by corporate sponsors, nonprofit organizations, and individual donors. This year's festival is hosted by Bay Pines VA Healthcare System.

"As the co-presenter of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, we support this event because of the positive impact it makes on our nation's Veterans who are using the healing power of the arts," said American Legion Auxiliary National President Kathy Daudistel.

"Each year, veterans use the arts to dream beyond their imagination and draw from their inner strength," said Festival Director Amy Kimbler. "Their creative pursuits are bold; they're brave, and we are able to help them realize everything is possible."

When veterans go back to their communities, whether as a first-time or accomplished artist, the festival experience will continue to motivate and inspire them throughout the entire year.

To support veterans, the public is invited to watch the live performance online and learn more information at the [National Veterans Creative Arts Festival](#). Follow the activities and VA adaptive sports @Sports4Vets on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).



NATIONAL GUARD, CIVILIAN AGENCIES TO CONDUCT REGIONAL TRAINING EXERCISE

The South Dakota National Guard, in partnership with several local, state, and federal agencies, will conduct a regional training exercise, April 26-27, throughout western South Dakota.

The "Rushmore Roundup" exercise will focus on military and civilian interoperability, communications, and field operations related to the response of a weapon of mass destruction incident. Incident site locations will include Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Badlands National Park, Custer State Park, and Sanford Underground Research Facility.

Site locations will remain open to the public and the training scenarios will not impact visitors.

The exercise will involve the SDNG's 82nd Civil Support Team as well as CSTs from Alaska, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, and North Dakota. Other agencies partnering include: the S.D. Office of Emergency Management, Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Weather Service, RAP 5 - Department of Energy, Pennington and Custer County Offices of Emergency Management, and the Rapid City Fire Department.

More than 100 participants will respond to separate incidents over a 48-hour period that will challenge each team and responding agency based on their objectives, to garner an increased level of communication between teams and their respective sections, to develop interoperability among local stakeholders, and to maintain operational response procedures during an incident.

CSTs support civil authorities in the event of the use of a weapon of mass destruction at incident sites by identifying chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear agents or substances, assessing current and projected consequences, advising on response measures, and assisting with requests for additional support.

"The Rushmore Roundup exercise will allow participants an opportunity to validate interagency coordination and response, reinforce tactics, techniques and procedures, provide beneficial lessons learned to expose vulnerabilities, increase effectiveness, and build relationships within our region, federal agencies, and local agencies," said Capt. Michael Wollman, 82nd CST operations officer.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 1—Loyalty Day
- May 6—Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- May 8—Victory in Europe Day
- May 8—Mother's Day
- May 10—SDDVA Mini Conference—Pennington County Conference Room in the Care Building in Rapid City—(321 Kansas City Street)—10:00 am—2:00 pm (MT)
- May 11—SDDVA Mini Conference—American Legion Post 8 Cabin in Pierre—(520 S. Pierre Street)—10:00 am—2:00 pm (CT)
- May 12—SDDVA Mini Conference—Brookings City Library—Cooper Room—(513 3rd Street)—10:00 am—2:00 pm (CT)
- May 14—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 9
- May 14—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 9 Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center Arena—Doors open at 7:30 pm and program at 9:00 pm (CT)
- May 14-15—Ellsworth AFB Air Show
- May 21—Armed Forces Day
- May 30—Memorial Day Program—SD Veterans Cemetery—(25965 477th Avenue)—Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)
- May 30—Memorial Day Program—Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home —(2500 Minnekahta Avenue)—Hot Springs—10:00 am (MT)
- May 30—State Offices Closed
- Jun 1—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 10
- Jun 1—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 10 Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center Arena—Doors open at 7:30 pm and program at 9:00 pm (CT)
- Jun 9-12—State VFW Convention—4-H Fairgrounds—(3200 W Havens Avenue)—Mitchell
- Jun 12—Midwest Honor Flight Annual Honor Ride—SD Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls
- Jun 14—Flag Day
- Jun 16-19—State American Legion Conference—Watertown
- Jun 18—Midwest Honor Flight 3rd Reunion—Sioux Falls Convention Center—11:00 am (CT)
- Jun 19—Father's Day
- Jun 25—Lake County Abate Poker Run for Midwest Honor Flight
- Jul 4—Independence Day
- Jul 11—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—(20901 Pleasant Valley Dr)—Sturgis—9:00 am (MT)
- Jul 18-23—National Veterans Golden Age Games—Sioux Falls



UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 6-9—DAV National Convention—Orlando, FL
Aug 14-19—Military Order of the Purple Heart National Convention—Rapid City
Aug 15-17—SDDVA Annual CTVSO Benefit School
Aug 18-23—USS Iowa Veterans Association Reunion—Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center—Rapid City
Aug 22—The Barrel House Day of Giving fundraiser for Midwest Honor Flight—Sioux Falls
Sep 1—Veterans Day at the South Dakota State Fair
Sep 1-5—South Dakota State Fair
Sep 5—Labor Day
Sep 10—Heroes Helping with Horsepower Military Appreciation Event—W. Main Street—Ethan—Festivities begin at 8:00 am (CT)
Oct 3—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—(20901 Pleasant Valley Dr)—Sturgis—9:00 am (MT)
Oct 10—Native American Day
Oct 15—Midwest Honor Flight Fifth Annual Hangar Dance—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—7:00 pm (CT)
Nov 5—We've Got Your Six Veterans Appreciation Fair—Sturgis Community Center—(1401 Lazelle Street)—Sturgis—11:00 am—2:00 pm (MT)
Nov 11—Veterans Day
Nov 24—Thanksgiving Day
Dec 17—Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls—11:00 am (CT)
Dec 25—Christmas

UPCOMING EVENTS

Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer
South Dakota Department of the Military <https://military.sd.gov/>
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov>
Soldiers and Sailors Building - 425 E Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-8242
E-mail address: audry.ricketts@state.sd.us

